Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

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P R 140334Z MAY 75 FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4163 INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

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MADRID FOR MICHAEL B. SMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, TH

SUBJECT: TEXTILE TALKS WITH THAILAND

REF: A. STATE 108875 B. BANGKOK 8405

- 1. EMBASSY HAS AS YET RECEIVED NO INDICATION THAT RTG WILL BE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS AND CONCLUDE NEW TEXTILE AGREEMENT. AT PRESENT, THAI OFFICIALS SEEM TO REGARD NEW TEXTILE AGREEMENT AS CONTINUATION OF EXISTING POLICY RATHER THAN NEW DEPARTURE WHICH REQUIRES A HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL DECISION.
- 2. WE BELIEVE AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED WITH NO MORE THAN NORMAL DIFFICULTIES IF U.S. NEGOTIATORS ARE PREPARED TO SET INITIAL LIMITATION LEVELS COMFORTABLY ABOVE LEVELS OF TRADE WHICH EXISTED PRIOR TO PRESENT SLUMP IN TEXTILE MARKET. MRS. ORANUT OSATHANON, CHIEF OF EXPORT PROMOTION DIVISION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, TOLD FSO JOSEPH WILLIAMS THAT IT SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT TO CONCLUDE A NEW AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, BOTH MRS. ORANUT AND HER IMMEDIATE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUPERIOR, MR. CHUMPHON THAMCHAIR, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL,

DEPT OF FOREIGN TRADE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT U.S. DELEGATION WILL ATTEMPT TO BASE MAN-MADE FIBER LIMITATION LEVELS ON RECENT TRADE FIGURES WHICH THAIS CONSIDER ABNORMALLY LOW.

- 3. MRS. ORANUT OBSERVED THAT THAI DELEGATION WILL PROBABLY BE HEADED BY DIRECTOR GENERAL, FOREIGN TRADE, SUTHI NATWORATHAT, RATHER THAN PRESENT MINISTER OF COMMERCE. ABORTIVE CONSULTATIONS HELD IN WASHINGTON IN MARCH 1974 WERE LED BY FORMER MINISTER OF COMMERCE OSOT KOSIN PRIMARILY DUE TO OSOT'S LONG EXPERIENCE IN TEXTILE MATTERS.
- 4. WE HAVE NOT YET RECEIVED A FORMAL RESPONSE TO OUR PROPOSAL THAT CONSULTATIONS BE HELD WEEK OF JUNE 9. HOWEVER, THAI OFFICIALS CONCERNED INDICATE THAT THIS WILL PROBABLY BE ACCEPTABLE. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL B FINAL APPROVAL NEGOTIATING DATES DEPENDENT ON DIRECTOR SUTHI'S SCHEDULE FOLLOWING HIS RETURN FROM LONDON MAY 19. EMBASSY WILL CABLE FINAL DATES DURING WEEK MAY 19.
- 5. MRS. ORANUT NOTED THAT BOTH AUSTRALIA AND THE EC HAVE INDICATED THEIR DESIRE TO NEGOTIATE TEXTILE AGREEMENTS WITH THAILAND, BUT NO DATES HAVE BEEN FIXED FOR THE TALKS. MASTERS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

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